Non-Conventional Resources formulated detailed guidelines for implementation of the programme during the year 2002-03 onwards.

-- The performance evaluation of Statutory Development Boards in Maharashtra was taken up by PEO and the report was released in April, 2003. The findings and observations of PEO report were acknowledged by office of the Governor, Maharashtra and the three development boards of Marathawara, rest of Maharashtra and Vidharbha.

-- The evaluation reports on Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Functioning of Community Health Centres (CHCs), Functioning of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) assisted under Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme have been found extremely useful and acted upon by the implementing agencies.

-- The findings and recommendations of the recently evaluated scheme on Integrated Dairy Development Project are being acted upon by the Ministry and the Subject Division of the Planning Commission.

Issuance of Passport

593. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of passport issued by different passport offices in the country during the last three years, year-wise/passport office-wise;

(b) the details of the applications pending in these offices for issuance of passport during the last six months, state-wise/passport office-wise; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Governemnt in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Statement showing pendency as on date (as on 15.04.2005)

Sl. No.	Name of RPO/PO	Pendency as on 15.04.2005
1	2	3
1	Ahmedabad	4710
2	Bangalore	7105

1	2	3
3	Bareilly	1712
4	Bhopal	2708
5	Bhubaneswar	1598
6	Chandigarh	12359
7	Chennai	3898
8	Cochin	13788
9	Delhi	11945
10	Ghaziabad	3407
11	Guwahati	773
12	Hyderabad	1023
13	Jaipur	20263
14	Jalandhar	5934
15	Jammu	4248
16	Kolkata	1050
17	Kozhikode	13483
18	Lucknow	12587
19	Mumbai	1245
20	Nagpur	1406
21	Panaji	101
22	Patna	2631
23	Pune	307
24	Ranchi	2520
25	Srinagar	-
26	Surat	2458
27	Thane	NIL
28	Trichy	5536
29	Trivandrum	12673
30	Vishakhapatnam	6059
	TOTAL	**157527**

(b) Statement showing the number of passports issued by RPO/PO during the years 2002, 2003 & 2004 :—

S. No.	Name of RPO/PO	Number of Passports issued during 2002	Number of Passports issued during 2003	Number of Passports issued during 2004
1	Ahmedabad	200067	256289	235335
2	Bangalore	140936	152986	167010
3	Bareilly	29984	31882	41989
4	Bhopal	35999	38269	43970
5	Bhubaneswar	16265	17071	20987
6	Chandigarh	142744	170104	184987
7	Chennai	179506	202657	216367
8	Cochin	128387	154409	177863
9	Delhi	177833	152013	158258
10	Ghaziabad	31894	33625	40280
11	Guwahati	15629	16479	18055
12	Hyderabad	231530	257850	284753
13	Jaipur	95005	96400	106091
14	Jalandhar	126248	161884	166425
15	Jammu	10143	8672	11206
16	Kolkata	82882	96851	114542
17	Kozhikode	186476	189555	237355
18	Lucknow	104912	120775	133238
19	Mumbai	206318	187222	218355
20	Nagpur	18034	20038	24515
21	Panaji	25518	26918	23913
22	Patna	38849	31119	53901
23	Pune	48648	50469	60009
24	Ranchi	990	10210	15277
25	Srinagar	9995	10080	10585
26	Surat	Not opened	7165*	61820
27	Thane	63194	74382	79072
28	Trichy	180364	217300	261803
29	Trivandrum	92428	112509	119594
30	Vishakhapatnam	45777	50346	65225
	TOTAL	**2666555**	**2955529**	**3352780**

*** Passport Office Surat opened in August 2003**

(c) There are several reasons for delays in issuance of passports. These include: Delays in receipt of Police Verification Reports (PVRs) and adverse or incomplete PVRs, incomplete information and/or documents furnished by the applicants.

The Government have taken various steps to speed up the issuance of passports (i) proper scrutiny of the application form and the enclosed documents at the stage of submission of applications to avoid objections at later stages (ii) regular interaction with the police authorities to speed up police verification reports (iii) setting up of facilitation counters in several passport offices (iv) opening of District Passport Cells in various districts in almost all the States with a view to bring the passport services closer to the applicants and (v) On-line registration of passport applications in several Passport Offices.

This Ministry launched a pendency clearance drive in several offices *viz.* Delhi, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Patna and Trivandrum in Feb-Mar 2005. In Passport Office Delhi alone, more than 35,000 applications were cleared in approximately two weeks. Consequently, the average time taken to issue passport has come down in several Passport Offices.

Promotion of cheaper and affordable phones

*594. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has brought out some changes whereby Basic Operators Licences were converted into Universal Access Service Licences (USAL) on payment of fee prescribed on certain parameters;

(b) if so, the names of access providers who have got their USAL converted and their charges after conversion;

(c) if so, how many fixed phones, both wireline and wireless have been added in India with the name of access providers after conversion to USAL; and